



Washington County Road Department constructs an emergency dam to intercept an oil spill after a Keystone pipeline ruptured at Mill Creek in Washington County, Kan., on Thursday, Dec 8, 2022.

Associated Press

## Federal data: Kansas oil spill biggest in Keystone history

By JOHN HANNA, RYAN J. FOLEY and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH  
Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)** — An oil spill in a creek in northeastern Kansas this week is the largest for an onshore crude pipeline in more than nine years and by far the biggest in the history of the Keystone pipeline, according to federal data. Canada-based TC Energy on Thursday estimated the spill on the Keystone system at about 14,000 barrels, or 588,000 gallons. It said the affected pipeline segment had been "isolated," the oil had been con-

tained at the site with booms, or barriers, and environmental monitoring had been set up, including around-the-clock air-quality monitoring. It did not say how the spill occurred.

After a drop in pressure on the pipeline that carries oil from Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast, the company said it shut down its Keystone system Wednesday night. Oil spilled into a creek in Washington County, Kansas, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of Kansas City.

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# Federal data: Kansas oil spill biggest in Keystone history

Continued from Front

Zack Pistora, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club in Kansas, noted the spill in his state was larger than all of the 22 previous spills combined on the Keystone pipeline, which began operations in 2010. "This is going to be months, maybe even years before we get the full handle on this disaster and know the extent of the damage and get it all cleaned up," he said.

In September 2013, a Tesoro Corp. pipeline in North Dakota ruptured and spilled 20,600 barrels, according to U.S. Department of Transportation data.

A more expensive spill happened in July 2010, when an Enbridge Inc. pipeline in Michigan ruptured and spilled more than 20,000 barrels into Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River. Hundreds of homes and businesses were evacuated. The Keystone pipeline's previous largest spill came in 2017, when more than 6,500 barrels spilled near Amherst, South Dakota, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report released last year. The second largest, 4,515 barrels, was in 2019 near Edinburg, North Dakota. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said drinking water wells were not affected by this week's spill and the oil didn't move from the creek to larger waterways. The spill was in pastureland about 5 miles (8 kilometers) northeast of Washington, the county seat of about 1,100 residents and no evacuations were ordered.

Pipelines are often considered safer than shipping oil by railcar or truck, but large spills can create significant environmental damage.

The nearly 2,700-mile Keystone pipeline carries thick, Canadian tar-sands oil to refineries in Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas. An arm of the Transportation Department that oversees pipeline safety permitted operator TC Energy run the pipeline at pressure greater than is usually allowed if the company used pipe made



Oil from a Keystone pipeline rupture flows into Mill Creek in Washington County, Kansas, on Thursday, Dec 8, 2022. Vacuum trucks, booms and an emergency dam were constructed on the creek to intercept the spill.

Associated Press

from better steel.

In a report to Congress last year, the Government Accountability Office said Keystone's accident history was similar to other oil pipelines, but the spills have gotten larger in recent years. Investigations ordered by regulators found that the four worst spills were caused by flaws in design or pipe manufacturing during construction.

The TC Energy permit included more than 50 special conditions, including on its design, construction and operation, the GAO report said. Bill Caram, executive director of the non-profit advocacy Pipeline Safety Trust, said Friday that he would have thought that the additional safety measures would have been enough to offset the pipeline's higher pressure. "When we see multiple failures like this of such large size and a relatively short amount of time after that

pressure has increased, I think it's time to question that," Caram said, noting the 2017 and 2019 spills.

Concerns that spills could pollute waterways spurred opposition to plans by TC Energy to build another crude oil pipeline in the Keystone system, which would have cut across Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Critics also argued that using crude from western Canada's oil sands would worsen climate change, and President Joe Biden's cancelation of a U.S. permit for the project led the company to pull the plug last year.

The spill caused a brief surge in crude prices Thursday. Benchmark U.S. oil was up more modestly -- about 1% -- on Friday morning as fears of a supply disruption were overshadowed by bigger concerns about an economic downturn in the U.S. and other major countries that would reduce de-

mand for oil.

Tom Kloza, an Oil Price Information Service analyst, said that oil is now perceived as plentiful, "and this mishap will not have any appreciable impact on gasoline or diesel prices." Prices at the pump will continue to drop a few cents a day, or even more, and that between Canadian imports and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the U.S. has enough crude to last more than three years at current demand, he said.

Patrick De Haan, an analyst for GasBuddy, which operates a price-tracking app, said there is pressure to repair the pipeline quickly and keep refineries supplied, adding that "if it lasts more than a few days, that could spell trouble."

Past Keystone spills have led to outages that lasted about two weeks, but this outage could possibly be longer because it involves a body of water, RBC Capi-

tal Markets analysts said in a note to investors. Though it's possible that a portion of the pipeline could restart sooner, they said.

The spill was 5 miles (8 kilometers) northeast of Washington, the county seat of about 1,100 residents.

The pipeline runs through Chris and Bill Pannbacker's family farm. The hill where the breach happened was a landmark to locals and used to be a popular destination for hayrides, said Bill Pannbacker, a farmer and stockman. He disagreed with the company's decision to build the pipeline over that 80-foot hill rather than bore through it, now questioning himself for relenting.

"I wish I would have held firmer. And I bet now they wish I would have held firmer too because I'm assuming the flow against that bend in the pipe is maybe what caused some of the problem." □



# U.S. sanctions firms for rights abuses on Anti-Corruption Day

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Treasury Department said Friday it is imposing sanctions on a broad array of people and companies around the world for corruption and human rights abuses — from illegal fishing operations in Chinese waters to kickbacks in Guatemala — in recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day.

Those sanctioned include the 15-member Russian elections commission, which oversaw a sham referendum in Russia-occupied Ukraine in September, a group of companies and people linked to illegal fishing operations and human rights abuses in Chinese waters and a church founder in the Philippines charged with sex trafficking. Other people and firms from Iran, the Western Balkans, Liberia and El Salvador were also among those identified by the U.S. federal government for financial penalties and blocks on property located or managed in the U.S.

The wide-sweeping sanctions announcement comes on the day that the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Decla-



The Treasury Building is viewed in Washington, May 4, 2021.

**Associated Press**

ration of Human Rights in 1948, and aligns with Biden administration officials' participation in the International Anti-Corruption Conference this week. The conference lineup includes speeches by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, White House National Security adviser Jake Sullivan and other officials who endorsed various anti-corruption efforts domestically and worldwide.

The sanctions targets announced Friday include a

group of companies accused of illegal fishing and worker abuse in Chinese waters. One company, Dalian Ocean Fishing Co. Ltd., maintained working conditions so dangerous that five workers died after 13 months at sea, with three of the workers' bodies dumped into the ocean rather than repatriated to their homes. A senior department official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the U.S. action, said on a call

with reporters that Dalian employs crew members who work an average of 18 hours a day, live off expired food and drink dirty water. Illegal unreported fishing is associated with distant water fishing, where boats fish in other countries' or international waters. China's distant water fishing fleet is the largest in the world. Additionally, three politicians from Guatemala, including Allan Estuardo Rodriguez Reyes, the country's former president of the

Congress, face sanctions for alleged corruption and using political influence to get kickbacks and other favors. And in Russia, several presidential administration officials and the country's elections commission will be blocked from the U.S. financial system. A U.S. Treasury statement says that for years the Kremlin's elections commission has touted "clean and transparent elections in Russia that have been riddled with irregularities and credible accusations that the Kremlin has carefully managed the results."

The sanctioned people and companies' property and interests in the U.S. will be blocked and American companies that do business with the sanctioned entities will have to wind down their ties with them.

"Over the past year, Treasury has made combatting corruption and serious human rights abuse a top priority," said Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson in a statement. "By exposing the egregious behavior of these actors, we can help disrupt their activities, dismantle their networks, and starve them of resources." □

## Biden wants African Union to be added to Group of 20 nations

By **AAMER MADHANI and CARA ANNA**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden plans to announce at next week's U.S.-Africa summit that his administration supports adding the African Union as a permanent member of the Group of 20 nations, according to the White House.

The African Union represents the continent's 54 countries. The G-20 is composed of the world's major industrial and emerging economies and represents more than 80% of the world's gross domestic product. South Africa is currently the only African member of the G-20.

"It's past time Africa has

permanent seats at the table in international organizations and initiatives," the senior director for African affairs on the National Security Council, Judd Devermont, said in a statement Friday. "We need more African voices in international conversations that concern the global economy, democracy and governance, climate change, health, and security."

Biden has invited 49 African leaders to take part in the three-day Washington summit that starts Tuesday. The G-20 representation would allow African countries to more effectively press the group to implement its pledge to help the continent to cope with climate change. The high-

profile push for inclusion in the G-20 comes at a time when the AU has shown renewed unity and purpose on some high-profile issues, banding together to combat COVID-19 and establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, which came into force in early 2021.

African Union officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the White House announcement.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, at last month's G-20 gathering in Indonesia, underscored the importance of African Union membership in achieving climate goals.

"We call for continued G-20 support for the African



President Joe Biden speaks in the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, about the infusion of nearly \$36 billion to shore up a financially troubled union pension plan, preventing severe cuts to the retirement incomes of more than 350,000 Teamster workers and retirees across the United States.

**Associated Press**

Renewable Energy Initiative as a means of bringing clean power to the conti-

nent on African terms," Ramaphosa told the gathering. □



# AP seeks to protect access to records of death row inmate

By **TRAVIS LOLLER**

**Associated Press**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** —

The Associated Press has filed a motion seeking to protect public access to records detailing the treatment of a Tennessee death row inmate who cut off his penis while on suicide watch.

Henry Hodges has accused the state of cruel and unusual punishment for keeping him tied down with restraints on a thin vinyl mattress over a concrete slab after his return from the hospital, where surgeons reattached his penis. He was immobilized at one point for six hours straight despite discharge orders from Vanderbilt University Medical Center that he avoid sitting for more than two hours at a time, according to court filings, which don't mention whether that also includes lying down.

Hodges ended up having to return to the hospital to have his penis surgically removed after necrosis set in, according to filings. The state maintains that Hodges was not mistreated and that he has received appropriate care.

Attorneys for the state are seeking a protective order



**This booking photo provided by the Tennessee Department of Correction shows death row inmate Henry Hodges.**

**Associated Press**

to prevent the public disclosure of records that include any video of Hodges taken inside the prison. That includes footage from the cell where Hodges severed his penis with a razor and the cell where he was held in restraints after discharge. "The disclosure of any such photographs, videos, or other recordings could pose a severe security risk to both inmates and staff,"

according to an affidavit by Ernest Lewis, the associate warden of security at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institute.

Specifically, the recordings might show the interior layout of the prison, including windows and doors, Lewis said.

Hodges opposes the protective order. In a court filing Wednesday, his attorneys claim the state's mo-

tion is an attempt to "hide their bad behavior from the public." The document describes one episode in graphic detail.

"These videos depict Mr. Hodges in 4-point restraints, laying in an obviously painful spread eagle position with nothing but a black cloth thrown over the middle of his body," according to the objection filed by Kelly Henry, an assistant federal public defender. "In the video, Mr. Hodges is left to defecate on himself and lie in his own feces instead of being offered an opportunity to go to the toilet." "The overwhelmingly horrific nature of these videos is the exact reason why Defendants want to hide them from the public under a protective order," the objection reads.

It includes a declaration from Ben Leonard, an investigator with the federal public defender's office. Leonard states that much of what the state seeks to protect, such as the layout of the prison or location of security cameras, is already public on the Tennessee Department of Correction's own YouTube channel.

The AP on Thursday filed a

motion to intervene in the case to protect public access to the records that document Hodges' treatment. The AP wants the court to consider its motion at a Monday hearing, which Hodges supports but the state opposes.

The state cannot simply claim a broad security risk, but must show that specific harms would come from disclosing the records, Paul McAdoo, an attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press who is representing the AP, wrote to the court. The fact that the defendants are public officials and that the case is of public interest also weigh against granting a protective order, according to the memorandum.

"Widespread news coverage of Mr. Hodges' hunger strike, mental health crisis, and treatment by correctional staff underline the compelling public interest in his case, in particular," the memorandum states.

A Nashville jury in 1992 convicted Hodges of murdering telephone repairman Ronald Bassett two years earlier and sentenced him to death. He also was sentenced to 40 years in prison for robbing Bassett. □

# 1st Gen Z congressman-elect denied apartment over bad credit

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Rep.-elect Maxwell Frost of Florida, the first member of Generation Z elected to Congress, says he is struggling to get an apartment

in Washington and lost an application fee because his credit is "really bad."

The 25-year-old progressive Democrat, who will receive a \$174,000 salary as a con-

gressman, says his score suffered as he accumulated debt running for office for a year and a half. Three months into his campaign, he said, he had to become a Uber driver to pay for bills and food.

"This ain't meant for people who don't already have money," Frost tweeted Thursday about his problems apartment hunting in Washington, one of the most expensive cities in the country.

His plight shows the challenge for young or otherwise struggling new members of Congress who are moving to an expensive city and may not have the financial means to secure housing before they start receiving their government salary.

Frost's campaign manager, Kevin Lata, said Friday that the congressman-elect has received more than 100 offers for temporary housing solutions as he continues his apartment search. He has also received public offers on Twitter from world-famous chef Jose Andres and Democratic Rep. Jimmy Gomez of California, who tweeted that he could crash on the sofa of the apartment he shares with Democratic Rep. Darren Soto of Florida.

Frost recalled that Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, faced a similar problem when she first won in 2018 at the age of 29.

She said she was unable to

afford an apartment in the capital before her salary kicked in.

Ocasio-Cortez highlighted the wealth of many members of Congress and questioned how they could fairly represent working people if they didn't experience the same struggles.

Frost, a Black man with Cuban heritage, campaigned on gun safety and "Medicare for All" and was endorsed by progressive leaders including Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

He handily won Rep. Val Demings' former seat in Florida's heavily blue 10th Congressional District that includes the Orlando area. Demings lost her bid to unseat Republican Sen. Marco Rubio. □



**Rep.-elect Maxwell Frost, D-Fla., speaks with reporters as newly-elected members of the House of Representatives arrive at the Capitol for an orientation program, in Washington, Monday, Nov. 14, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



# NATO chief fears Ukraine war could become a wider conflict

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — The head of NATO expressed worry that the fighting in Ukraine could spin out of control and become a war between Russia and NATO, according to an interview released Friday.

"If things go wrong, they can go horribly wrong," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in remarks to Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

"It is a terrible war in Ukraine. It is also a war that can become a full-fledged war that spreads into a major war between NATO and Russia," he said. "We are working on that every day to avoid that."

Stoltenberg, a former prime minister of Norway, said in the interview that "there is no doubt that a full-fledged war is a possibility," adding that it was important to avoid a conflict "that involves more countries in Europe and becomes a full-fledged war in Europe." The Kremlin has repeatedly accused NATO allies of effectively becoming a party to the conflict by providing Ukraine with weapons, training its troops and feeding military intelligence to attack Russian forces.

In comments that reflected soaring tensions between Russia and the West, President Vladimir Putin suggested Moscow might think about using what he described as the U.S. concept of a preemptive strike.

"Speaking about a disarming strike, maybe it's worth thinking about adopting the ideas developed by our U.S. counterparts, their ideas of ensuring their security," he said.

Long before the Ukraine war, the Kremlin expressed concern about U.S. efforts to develop the so-called Prompt Global Strike capability that envisions hitting an adversary's strategic targets with precision-guided conventional weapons anywhere in the world within one hour. Putin noted that such a strike could knock out command facilities. "We are just thinking about it, they weren't shy



**NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg gives a lecture on Russia, Ukraine and NATO's security policy challenges, during the Civita breakfast in the University of Oslo, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022.**

Associated Press

to openly talk about it during the past years," he said, claiming that Moscow's precision-guided cruise missiles outperform similar U.S. weapons and Russia has hypersonic weapons that the U.S. hasn't deployed. Putin also said he was disappointed with former German Chancellor Angela Merkel's recent comments that a 2015 peace deal for eastern Ukraine negotiated by France and Germany had bought time for Ukraine to prepare for the 2022 war.

"I assumed that other participants of the process were sincere with us, but it turned out that they were cheating us," he said. "It turned out that they wanted to pump Ukraine with weapons and prepare for hostilities."

Putin argued that Merkel's statement showed that Russia was right in launching what he calls the "special military operation" in Ukraine. "Perhaps we should have started it earlier," he said.

He also said her comments further eroded Russia's trust in the West, complicating any possible peace talks. "Eventually we will have to negotiate an agreement," he said. "But after such statements there is an issue of trust. Trust is close to zero.

I repeatedly have said that we are ready for an agreement, but it makes us think, think about whom we are dealing with."

In separate comments via video link to defense and security chiefs of several ex-Soviet nations, Putin again accused the West of using Ukraine as a tool against his country.

"For many years, the West shamelessly exploited and pumped out its resources, encouraged genocide and terror in the Donbas and effectively turned the country into a colony," he said. "Now it's cynically using the Ukrainian people as cannon fodder, as a ram against Russia by continuing to supply Ukraine with weapons and ammunition, sending mercenaries and pushing it to a suicidal track."

Ukrainians say they are fighting for freedom against an unwanted invader and aggressor.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by phone Friday and both "agreed on the importance of preempting Russia's insincere calls for a ceasefire," Sunak's office said. "The prime minister added that the Kremlin needed to withdraw its forces before any

agreement could be considered."

Heavy fighting continued Friday in eastern and southern Ukraine, mostly in regions that Russia illegally annexed in September. Ukraine's presidential office said five civilians have been killed and another 13 have been wounded by Russian shelling in the last 24 hours.

Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said the Russians were pressing an offensive on Bakhmut with daily attacks, despite taking heavy casualties.

"You can best describe

those attacks as cannon fodder," Kyrylenko said in televised remarks. "They are mostly relying on infantry and less on armor, and they can't advance."

In neighboring Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, regional Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the Ukrainian military was pushing its counteroffensive toward Kreminka and Svatove.

He voiced hope Ukraine can reclaim control of Kreminka by year's end, and then by the end of winter reclaim areas in the region that were captured by Russia since the war began.

In the south, Kherson regional Gov. Yaroslav Yanyshkevych said eight civilians were wounded by Russian shelling in the last 24 hours, and in the city of Kherson that Ukraine retook last month, a children's hospital and a morgue were damaged. In the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, Russian forces shelled Nikopol and Chervonohryhorivka, which are across the Dnieper River from the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

Zaporizhzhia Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said Russian shelling damaged residential buildings and power lines.

In the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said three civilians were wounded by Russian shelling, with one later dying. □

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# U.N. aid chief: Gangs control about 60% of Haiti's capital

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** —

Close to 60% of Haiti's capital is dominated by gangs whose violence and sexual attacks have caused thousands to flee their homes, the U.N. humanitarian chief in the Caribbean nation said Thursday.

Ulrika Richardson said that has left nearly 20,000 people in the capital facing "catastrophic famine-like conditions" as a cholera outbreak spreads throughout Haiti.

Richardson painted a grim picture of a country in a downward spiral, with half its population in urgent need of food assistance as the number of cholera deaths has risen to 283. She said close to 12,000 people have been hospitalized with the disease since Oct. 2, and there are now a total of more than 14,000 suspected cholera cases in eight of the country's 10 regions.

She said all but 1,000 of the 20,000 Haitians facing starvation are in the capital, Port-au-Prince, mainly in the Cite Soleil slum controlled by the gangs.

Richardson said insecurity has led to "massive displacement," especially in the capital, where 155,000 people have fled their homes.



Residents who were displaced from their homes due to clashes between armed gangs in La Plaine, are examined at a mobile medical clinic in the Tabare neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 13, 2022.

She said at a news conference that the gangs are using "very terrifying levels of sexual violence as a weapon" to keep people under control, instill fear and punishment.

She said gang battles over territory and their criminal actions are tearing society apart and escalating insecurity.

Political instability has simmered in Haiti since last year's still-unsolved assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, who had faced protests calling for his resignation over corruption charges.

Daily life in Haiti began to spin out of control in September just hours after Prime Minister Ariel Henry

said fuel subsidies would be eliminated, causing prices to double.

A gang led by Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier, a former police officer, blocked the Varreux fuel terminal, setting off a fuel crisis.

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Cherizier on Oct. 21, and he announced on Nov. 6 that his G9 gang federation was lifting the blockade.

Associated Press

But despite the availability of fuel, Richardson said, the humanitarian, security and political situation is worsening, saying that "everyone is affected by the violence."

Hentry and Haiti's Council of Ministers sent an urgent appeal Oct. 7 calling for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to dispatch an international military force to tackle Haiti's violence and alleviate its humanitarian crisis.

Richardson said U.N. Security Council members have held intensive discussions since then focusing on the "potential leadership and potential composition of such a force," but so far there has been no decision.

While discussions are continuing in the Security Council, Richardson said the United Nations and a lot of countries are helping Haiti's national police force — "and they need a lot of support in terms of equipment and training."

In mid-November, the U.N. launched an emergency appeal for \$145 million to respond to Haiti's cholera outbreak and rising hunger, but so far it has received just \$23.5 million, she said. □

## As wiretap claims rattle government, Greece bans spyware

By DEREK GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** —

Lawmakers in Greece on Friday approved legislation banning commercial spyware and reforming rules for legally-sanctioned wire-

taps following allegations that senior government officials and journalists had been targeted by shadowy surveillance software. The 156-142 vote in parliament followed two days of debate, during which

opposition lawmakers accused the government of attempting to cover up the illegal surveillance. They demanded that the date of a general election due before next summer be brought forward. Under the new law, the use, sale or distribution of spyware in Greece will carry a penalty of a two-year minimum prison sentence. Additional safeguards were also planned for legal wiretaps as well as for hiring the director and deputy directors of the National Intelligence Service, or NIS. Critics, including human rights groups and an independent transparency authority, argue that the changes followed a poorly-planned consultation process and lack sufficient oversight.

Opposition lawmakers all voted against the bill Friday.

In August, a top government aide and the country's security chief resigned following revelations that Socialist politician Nikos Androulakis had been the subject of telephone surveillance by the NIS that the government insists had been legally sanctioned. Androulakis was later elected leader of Greece's third largest party.

Reports followed in the news media that cell phones belonging to members of the cabinet as well as other senior officials and journalists may have been targeted with powerful Predator spyware.

The government insists its agencies have never used

the spyware a position that political opponents have repeatedly questioned.

"Was the NIS monitoring other politicians besides Mr. Androulakis? The heads of the armed forces? members of the European Parliament, yes or no?" opposition leader Alexis Tsipras, who heads the left-wing Syriza party, said in parliament. "I hope the answer is 'no' and I expect to hear it clearly. But if it turns out that you are lying, you will be duty-bound to resign."

The government of Prime Minister Mitsotakis' center-right New Democracy party, has seen its strong lead in opinions polls in recent weeks suffer as a result of the wiretapping allegations and the ongoing cost of living crisis. □



Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis holds his cellphone during a parliament session in Athens, Greece, Friday Aug. 26, 2022.

Associated Press





## International workshop on the potential of traditional knowledge to reduce the impact of climate change in the Caribbean

**ORANJESTAD – From the 28th of November to the 2nd of December, the international workshop 'Traditional Knowledge Solutions for Present and Future Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean' took place at the National Archeological Museum of Aruba (MANA). This workshop was a collaboration between the project 'Islanders at the Helm' and MANA.**

For four days, participants from the Caribbean region, the Netherlands and Aruba exchanged experiences, knowledge and ideas regarding climate change in the Caribbean region and how to reduce its effects.

The opening of the workshop had special guests, including the Governor of Aruba, the minister of Education and members of

the press. After the official opening, the information part followed, where local and international participants gave a presentation. To make these presentations accessible to a wider audience, these are available via streaming by following the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@user-y9ou6zh9n/streams>.

The following days consisted of small group sessions focused on specific topics. Among others, the participants deliberated on agriculture, food safety, water management, cultural heritage, sacred spaces and memory places, house building and locations to live, and people as part of a Natural System to Adapt to Climate Change.

A public panel with representatives of indigenous communities in the Carib-

bean and Aruban farmers gave closure to the meetings at MANA. The panel focused among other things on the meaning of nature for communities, traditional practices to deal with climate change, the contribution of traditional knowledge in the planning of development, and the key message of indigenous communities for the world.

On the final day, a journey was taken through Aruba visiting archeological sites and innovative initiatives related to sustainability and the environment. Participants were impressed with the projects of Ecoliving Aruba, San Antonio College and Aruba National Park that promote sustainable agriculture and the rescue of Aruban plants.

The goal of the workshop was to exchange ideas

with key persons and institutes in the Caribbean. In this format, local, indigenous and traditional guests also received a platform. It was the first time in the Caribbean that these diverse groups came together to deal with the challenges of climate change.

For this topic, other meetings will follow to continue developing ideas. The workshop showed the importance of the integration of results of scientific research with traditional knowledge.

During an educational session at the Hofi di Shoco at the Aruba National Park, actions were identified to continue working together. A vision document will be presented on how to deal with climate change. A digital platform was also created to facilitate dialogue

between the participants. Next they will begin preparing for another meeting in Isla San Andres, Colombia.

It is necessary to promote more research and documentation – with a database – on the national and local level for the topics concerned and to strengthen the transmission of information to more groups in the community to create awareness. The organizers were satisfied with the workshop. They thank Islanders at the Helm, Carib- Trails, KITLV, Leiden University, UNESCO-Caribbean, and the ministry of Culture and Finance of Aruba for making it possible. Human resources and equipment contribution was received from Fundacion Rancho, the National Library of Aruba and the University of Aruba (OGM Faculty). □



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It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was



no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this

move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw).





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Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**ORANJESTAD** - On December 1, 2022, the Government of Aruba, Arubahuis, and the Haagse Hogeschool organized an information session in the Netherlands called Our Diaspora.

The encounter held at the Haagse Hogeschool was attended mainly by Aruban students. The Prime Minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever Croes, Minister of Finance Xiomara Maduro,

and Plenipotentiary Minister Ady Thijsen addressed all present.

The Prime Minister talked about the financial situation in Aruba and the CAFT relations and shared current compared to pre-pandemic data. The Prime Minister addressed the challenges since taking office. She indicated that these were difficult times for the Government since the pandemic significantly

## Information session for students in the Netherlands 'Nos Diaspora' a success

affected our island.

The IMF expressed its concerns at the beginning of the pandemic that Aruba would be one of the countries most affected by the pandemic due to its dependency on tourism. Now the same IMF is positive to see how Aruba has recovered very quickly compared with other countries in the region. Our tourism is booming, and the economy is recovering. The national debt is decreasing but still high due to the recent loan by the Netherlands during the pandemic.

The Prime Minister shared the plans of the Govern-

ment on a variety of aspects, including energy diversification, environment, climate change, investment in education, health-care, senior care, etc.

A concern expressed by the students was employment. They wanted to know what the Government would do to guarantee work in Aruba for those who return after graduating. The Prime Minister stated that the Minister of Labor, Glenbert Croes, and Arubahuis are working on a "Job Bank" to offer job vacancies to students based on their education.

The students who attended had many other questions,



and the Ministers took the time to explain and answer these questions. Nos Diaspora was a success, and the Government is glad to see the number of students who attended this session to obtain information about the situation in Aruba, its finances, and how Aruba is on the path to recovery and becoming a strong and resilient island. □

## The Department of Civil Aviation from a reactive to a more proactive approach

**ORANJESTAD** - In connection with International Civil Aviation Day on December 7, 2022, the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), and Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ursell Arends, launched

Aruba's online safety incident reporting portal.

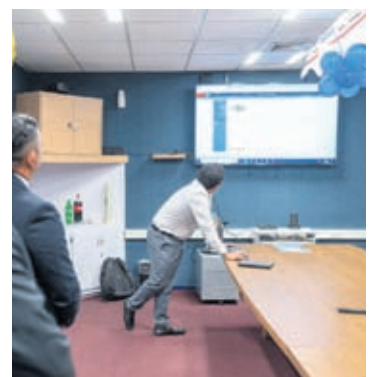
The purpose is to promote a safety and knowledge culture in Aruba's aviation industry.



The DCA recognizes that the public already contributes and will contribute to aviation safety in Aruba by reporting their concerns about safety issues they encounter.

With the portal, they intend to facilitate the reporting of suspected aviation safety abuses, irregularities, or lack of safety directly to the DCA without the risk of unwanted consequences for the reporter.

Once the DCA receives the safety report, they switch from a reactive to a proactive process where they can identify the deficien-

cies in reported aviation safety and implement improvement measures before it escalates or causes an injury to aviation safety. With the help of citizens, DCA can keep your flight safe. The portal is available at <http://www.dca.gov.aw/reporting>. □



## Create museum memories



**ORANJESTAD —** As from now on a very interesting museum on Aruba is open to the public again. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us in-

troduce to you the Museum of industry located in San Nicolas.

The Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, also known as the art capital of Aruba, represents the history

of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. A unique opportunity to learn about Aruba's history, as well as the vibrant cultural heritage of this part of the island. Learn about the incredible versatility Aruba has shown in history and the opportunity to experience the stories of those who were part of this history.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Iconic Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sec-



tions: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain,

preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba. □

## Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

**ORANJESTAD —** Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You



can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the PapiCristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken

in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial

time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our

black-African ancestry. We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, PapiCristang, PatuáMacaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

**Anonymous**  
**Source: Dushi Aruba**





## Team Dreyer representing Aruba in Colombia



**ORANJESTAD – This week, Team Dreyer departed from Aruba to Colombia for the Future Soccer Cup (FSC) tournament. Jimena Borja, coach of Team Dreyer U11, told our reporter about this trip, during which Team Dreyer will be representing Aruba at the tournament.**

Borja said that the purpose of the tournament and the journey is for the kids to experience a bit of what international soccer is and for them to see another level of play outside of Aruba. "We believe that it will be very beneficial for us, because the kids will see what the level of South America is, and when they come back they can share that with their club mates. They also need to continue working hard to continue receiving opportunities like this", she said.

Team Dreyer is going to Colombia

with a total of 14 children in the category of U11, which are 9 to 11 year old kids who have stood out in their soccer clubs. Team Aruba will have games against the club Envigado of Colombia, which is a big and famous club in the Latin American country. They are known to produce players like James Rodriguez, Fredy Guarin, Quintero, and other important players for Colombia.

"This is a good opportunity for us as a school to continue growing and motivating the kids to keep working hard", Borja pointed out.

Borja explained that the invitation for the tournament arrived about four months ago, and the kids began their preparations shortly after. They trained in tactical, technical and physical as well because the games will be very taxing.

"The kids train with us and their

club constantly, and most of them know each other which for us is very good. It's not the same going with a teammate who you've known for a year already versus one that you met a month ago. This will be very good for the kids to experience", she pointed out.

The invitation for the tournament came through Borja herself, since she has contact with many people in Colombia, and because the school is well organized and they know that she is coordinator in Team Dreyer, the invitation was extended.

Team Dreyer is a technical school. Borja explained that the difference between them and soccer clubs in Aruba is that they train technical skill. Team Dreyer is focused on the development of the children's motor skills, and they spend a lot

of time working on the motor and technical skills. "We know that this is very important to reach a higher level, and we focus a lot on that", she said.

Team Dreyer trains children in categories U5 to U17, and depending on their category, they work on what they need to put more focus. For example, small children focus on having contact with the ball. "The main focus for Team Dreyer is for them to develop technical aspect, and we don't go a lot in tactical because we know that that is done at their club, and we respect that", she added.

To finalize, Borja thanked the parents of all participating children for their support, as well as their sponsors. "Without their support, this trip would not be possible." □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 "The Tempest" houses sprite
  - 6 Isolated
  - 11 Fable writer
  - 12 Ohio or Missouri
  - 13 Island off Naples
  - 14 Scoundrel
  - 15 Reparations
  - 17 Cargo amount
  - 18 Bear's lair
  - 19 Green stone
  - 22 Hosp. sections
  - 23 School paper
  - 24 With all one's might
  - 25 Enterprise captain
  - 27 Upper limit
  - 30 Football player's worry
  - 31 Dr.'s org.
  - 32 FBI worker
  - 33 Rehearsal
  - 35 Comedic tribute
  - 38 Code name
  - 39 Poet Guest

## DOWN

- 1 Fake front
- 2 Juice extractor
- 3 Quaking trees
- 4 Rent
- 5 Role for Tom Holland
- 6 Torah cabinet
- 7 Wrestling win
- 8 Film set on Pandora
- 9 Rise up
- 10 Pollster's find
- 16 Vilified
- 20 Skin-related
- 21 Guitarist Wood
- 24 Cry of horror
- 25 Eastern temple
- 26 Security badges
- 27 Stephen King book
- 28 Tickled
- 29 Comic strip makeup
- 30 Less decorated
- 34 Days gone by
- 36 Easy victim
- 37 Attempt

H	A	T	E	D		P	A	B	L	O
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1					12				
3					14				
5				15			7		
8				19	20	21			
22				23					
			24						
	25	25					27	28	29
30							31		
32					33	34			
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

12-10

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-10

## CRYPTOQUOTE

R D D I I M R D V D R Q Z I F , V A M U Q

R B F R M P R P H U M G F L U Q R D

B I V M B G I C R X X U M . — R . R .

S V T M U . " Q V M M V U G C U X I I C "

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BLOW, BLOW, THOU WINTER WIND, THOU ART NOT SO UNKIND AS MAN'S INGRATITUDE. — WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# FTC sues to block Microsoft-Activision Blizzard \$69B merger

By MATT O'BRIEN  
AP Technology Writer

The Federal Trade Commission on Thursday sued to block Microsoft's planned \$69 billion takeover of video game company Activision Blizzard, saying it could suppress competitors to Microsoft's Xbox game console and its growing games subscription business.

The FTC's challenge could be a test case for President Joe Biden's mandate to scrutinize big tech mergers. The commission voted 3-1 to issue the complaint after a closed-door meeting, with the three Democratic commissioners voting in favor and the sole Republican voting against.

The complaint points to Microsoft's previous game acquisitions, especially of well-known developer Bethesda Softworks and its parent company ZeniMax, as an example of where Microsoft is making some upcoming game titles exclusive to Xbox despite assuring European regulators it had no intention to do so. "Microsoft has already shown that it can and will withhold content from its gaming rivals," said a prepared statement from Holly Vedova, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition. "Today we seek to stop Microsoft from gaining control over a leading independent game studio and using it to harm competition in multiple dynamic and fast-growing gaming markets."

The FTC said it was filing the complaint through its administrative process rather than taking the case to a federal court. An administrative law judge it set to hear evidence but not until August 2023, according to



The Activision Blizzard Booth during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, June 13, 2013.

Associated Press

the complaint.

Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, signaled in a statement Thursday that the company is likely to challenge the FTC's action.

"While we believed in giving peace a chance, we have complete confidence in our case and welcome the opportunity to present our case in court," Smith said.

The company had been ramping up its public defense of the deal in recent days as it awaited a decision. Smith said Microsoft has been committed to addressing competition concerns and brought proposed concessions to the FTC earlier this week.

Microsoft announced the merger deal in January but has faced months of resistance from Sony, which makes the competing PlayStation console and has raised concerns with antitrust watchdogs around the world about losing access to popular Activision Blizzard game franchises such as the military shooter game Call of Duty.

Antitrust regulators under Biden "have staked out the view that for decades

merger policy has been too weak and they've said, repeatedly, 'We're changing that,'" said William Kovacic, a former chair of the FTC.

That has put pressure on the FTC to fulfill its bold promises to "not allow dodgy deals and not accept weak settlements," said Kovacic, who was a Republican commissioner appointed in 2006 by then-President George W. Bush. But he said Microsoft has a good chance of winning its legal challenge.

"It's evident that the company has been making a number of concessions," he said. "Microsoft would likely raise them in court and say the FTC is being incorrigibly stubborn about this."

Microsoft announced its latest promise Wednesday, saying it would make Call of Duty available on Nintendo devices for 10 years should its acquisition go through. It has said it tried to offer the same commitment to Sony.

In an appeal to Biden administration priorities, Microsoft had also sought to characterize its deal as worker-friendly after announcing a "labor neutrality agreement" in June with the Communications Workers of America that would allow workers to unionize after the acquisition closes. The union's president, Chris Shelton, wrote an opinion column in The Hill this week calling on the FTC to "seal the deal, not blow it up." □

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## Manatee relative, 700 new species now facing extinction

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

Populations of a vulnerable species of marine mammal, numerous species of abalone and a type of Caribbean coral are now threatened with extinction, an international conservation organization said Friday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature announced the update during the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, or COP15, conference in Montreal. The union's hundreds of members include government agencies from around the world, and it's one of the planet's widest-reaching environmental networks.

The IUCN uses its Red List of Threatened Species to categorize animals approaching extinction. This year, the union is sounding the alarm about the dugong a large and docile marine mammal that lives from the eastern coast of Africa to the western Pacific Ocean. The dugong is vulnerable throughout its range, and now populations in East Africa have entered the red list as critically endangered, IUCN said in a statement. Populations in New Caledonia have entered the list as endangered, the group said.

The major threats to the animal are unintentional capture in fishing gear in East Africa and poaching in New Caledonia, IUCN said. It also suffers from boat collisions and loss of the seagrasses it eats, said Evan Trotzok, who led the East Africa red list as-



Serena, a dugong, swims at the Toba Aquarium in Toba, Japan on Sept. 5, 2012.

Associated Press

essment. "Strengthening community-led fisheries governance and expanding work opportunities beyond fishing are key in East Africa, where marine ecosystems are fundamental to people's food security and livelihoods," Trotzok said. The IUCN Red List includes more than 150,000 species. The list sometimes overlaps with the species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, such as in the case of the North Atlantic right whale. More than 42,000 of the species on the red list are threatened with extinction, IUCN says. IUCN uses several categories to describe

an animal's status, ranging from "least concern" to "critically endangered." IUCN typically updates the red list two or three times a year. This week's update includes more than 3,000 additions to the red list. Of those, 700 are threatened with extinction.

Jane Smart, head of IUCN's Centre for Science and Data, said it will take political will to save the jeopardized species, and the gravity of the new listings can serve as a clarion call. "The news we often give you on this is often gloomy, a little bit depressing, but it sparks the action, which is good," Smart said.

Pillar coral, which is found throughout the Caribbean, was moved from vulnerable to critically endangered in this week's update. The coral is threatened by a tissue loss disease, and its population has shrunk by more than 80% across most of its range since 1990, IUCN said. The IUCN lists more than two dozen corals in the Atlantic Ocean as critically endangered. □

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Surinam	582 7896

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# Griner's home, but WNBA players still competing overseas

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

Brittney Griner is back in the United States after an arduous 10-month saga in Russia. Yet nearly half of her WNBA peers opted to compete abroad this winter to supplement their incomes. None are playing in Russia, for obvious reasons Griner's ordeal and the country's ongoing war with Ukraine but 67 of the league's 144 players are in Australia, Turkey, Italy and about a half-dozen other countries.

"Our players are going to do what's best for them in consultation with their families and their agents," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "And we're certainly here to help them think through the security risks and things like that. I think you're seeing players take advantage of other opportunities, and we're certainly going to provide them more opportunities to do things with the league in the offseason and keep the momentum going around the great play that they put on the court every year." Griner, an All-Star with the Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was detained following her arrest at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport in February on drug possession charges while returning to Russia to play for her overseas team. She was convicted and sentenced to nine years in pris-



United States' Breanna Stewart, right, shoots over China's Zhang Ru during their gold medal game at the women's Basketball World Cup in Sydney, Australia, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.

Associated Press

on in Russia before the U.S. and Russia made a high-level prisoner exchange Thursday that allowed her to return home.

Griner has not spoken publicly nor announced her career plans since she was freed. But if she wanted to return to the court, she would be welcomed back by the WNBA, the Mercury and USA Basketball.

Engelbert said she'd give Griner and her family some space and time before any discussion about returning to the league, whose season begins May 19. South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley,

who coached Griner on the 2020 Olympic team, feels that playing again could be helpful to the dominant center.

Playing overseas brings in salaries for a handful of WNBA players that top \$1 million. It's a lucrative alternative to the marketing deals that the WNBA offers players to remain in the U.S. during the offseason and promote the league; top players like Griner can now make \$700,000 when factoring in all possible revenue streams offered by the WNBA. But there's no denying that the disparity in pay between professional men's basketball players

and professional women's basketball players Griner included is still vast. The top salaries for WNBA players are much less than the minimum salary of about \$953,000 for NBA players (excluding those on two-way contracts) for various reasons, primarily the difference in profit margins and media rights.

The NBA's revenues topped \$10 billion for the first time last season, and the league has a \$24 billion, nine-year television deal. Its next one, set to kick in around 2025, is expected to be worth significantly more. The WNBA does not publicly release its revenue numbers.

WNBA players have never asked to make the same as their NBA counterparts they acknowledge it's impossible but have asked for an equal revenue share. So, the WNBA players look outside of the U.S., and Turkey has become the main destination for this winter with nearly two dozen of them playing there. Top players can make a few hundred thousand dollars playing in Turkey significantly less than what they could earn in Russia.

Breanna Stewart, who plays for the Seattle Storm, chose to play in Turkey because it was closer to her wife's family in Spain.

"You want to have a better lifestyle, a better off-the-court experience, and just continue to appreciate other countries," she told The Associated Press during the FIBA World Cup in September. Last offseason, 73 WNBA players went overseas. Five years ago, it was about 90 players. The decline points to the growing options in the U.S., especially with the marketing agreements, which Engelbert said tripled this year.

"The owners really stepped up on the compensation side for the players in this collective bargaining cycle," Engelbert said at the WNBA Finals, "and I think the kind of quid pro quo for that was prioritization, showing up on time for our season." □

## Nike Hoop Summit to feature women's game for 1st time

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)** — The Nike Hoop Summit, an annual event that pits top U.S. high school players against a team of International players age 19 and under, is adding a women's matchup for the first time.

The next summit will be in Portland on April 8, USA Basketball announced Friday.

"The Nike Hoop Summit has been a great event to showcase the USA's top talent against the World's top talent on an annual basis," USA Basketball CEO

Jim Tooley said.

"With the addition of a women's game, there is another opportunity for our top women's players to compete on an international stage."

The summit dates back to 1995 and has seen 253 past participants drafted into the NBA, with 90 top-10 selections and 14 No. 1 picks including Cade Cunningham (2021), Zion Williamson (2019), Deandre Ayton (2018), Markelle Fultz (2017), Ben Simmons (2016), Karl-Anthony Towns (2015), Andrew Wiggins (2014),

Anthony Bennett (2013), Anthony Davis (2012), Kyrie Irving (2011), John Wall (2010), Derrick Rose (2008), Andrea Bargnani (2006) and Elton Brand (1999).

Other alumni of the summit include Kevin Garnett, Dirk Nowitzki, Tony Parker, Shane Battier, Kevin Durant, Kevin Love, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Bradley Beal and Tyler Herro.

The U.S. has won 16 of the 23 games played to date. Rosters for the 2023 games are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. □



New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson (1) goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons center Jalen Duren (0) and center Isaiah Stewart (28) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

Associated Press



# Croatia beats Brazil on penalties in World Cup quarterfinals

By **TALES AZZONI**

AP Sports Writer

**AL RAYYAN, Qatar (AP)**

— Neymar is again going home without a World Cup title. Luka Modric's quest continues unabated.

Modric converted one of the penalties as Croatia knocked Brazil out of the World Cup on Friday, beating the five-time champions 4-2 in a shootout to reach the semifinals for the second straight time.

Neymar tied Pele's record for most goals for the national team, giving Brazil the lead in extra time. But he wasn't among the four Brazilian players to take a penalty in the shootout, instead reduced to tears on the field at Education City Stadium while the red-and-white clad Croatians celebrated.

Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saved the penalty first attempt by Rodrygo and Marquinhos later hit the post. Livakovic had already produced some key stops as the teams drew 0-0 in regulation and 1-1 in extra time.

"We are raised as fighters, giving our best," Livakovic said. "And that's the recipe for success." Five of Croatia's last six matches at World Cups have gone to extra time, including its penalty shootout win over Japan in the round of 16 in



**Brazil's Marquinhos lies on the ground as Croatia's player celebrate after the penalty shootout at the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Croatia and Brazil, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Friday, Dec. 9, 2022.**

Qatar. The team has been successful in eight of its last 10 knockout matches at the tournament. Croatia came from behind in every game of the knockout stage in 2018, and again in the two elimination matches it has played in Qatar.

"We have a strong character and we do not give up," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said. "We were prepared for everything today. We knew that as the game unfolded, our chances improved."

Nikola Vlasic, Lovro Majer

and Mislav Orsic also converted their penalties for Croatia, while Casemiro and Pedro scored for Brazil. Both goals came in the additional 30 minutes, first with Neymar scoring late in the first half of extra time to give Brazil the lead, and then with Bruno Petkovic equalizing in the 117th.

Neymar's goal moved him into a tie with Pelé as Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals, but the forward again fell short of winning a major title with Brazil and had to be consoled

by veteran defender Dani Alves as he cried after the match. Croatia will next face either Argentina or the Netherlands to try to return to the World Cup final four years after losing the title to France.

Brazil was looking to reach the semifinals for the first time since 2014. The team hadn't made it that far since hosting the tournament eight years ago, when the Selecao was embarrassed by Germany 7-1. Brazil was trying to defeat a European opponent in

the knockout stage of the World Cup for the first time since the 2002 final against Germany, when the team won for the last time.

Neither Neymar nor Modric could do much to give their teams significant chances early on, as both teams played cautiously in attack and defense. Brazil was better after halftime and came closer to scoring.

Neymar, starting for the second game in a row after recovering from an ankle injury sustained in Brazil's opening match, had some of his team's best opportunities, including a couple close-range attempts saved by Livakovic.

"He was the difference on very crucial moments," Dalic said of his goalkeeper. "He was there to save us."

Neymar scored his milestone goal after dribbling past Livakovic inside the area and sending a shot into the top of the net. Brazil was a few minutes from victory when Petkovic scored with a left-footed shot that deflected off Marquinhos before getting past Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

## TITE'S DEPARTURE

It was likely Brazil's last match under coach Tite, who had said before the World Cup began that he was not going to stay with the national team. □

# AP source: Righty Trevor Williams, Nats agree on 2-year deal

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Sports Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Trevor Williams and the Washington Nationals agreed to a two-year contract Friday, giving the rebuilding club a right-handed pitcher with experience as a starter and reliever. The agreement was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity because nothing had been announced yet. It was first reported by MASNsports.com. Williams, who turns 31 in April, was a free agent after playing for the New York Mets last season, going 3-5 with a 3.21 ERA and one save in

30 appearances nine as a starting pitcher and 21 out of the bullpen. On Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving, Williams tweeted: "BLACK FRIDAY FREE AGENT SALE! TODAY ONLY! 2 for 1 Deal: Buy one Trevor Williams the RHP and also get Trevor Williams the LHH Corner Outfielder! (deal expires at midnight EST)." He made his major league debut in 2016 and has played for three clubs across seven seasons in the majors, posting a 4.27 ERA with a record of 38-44. Washington is in need of pitching help, particularly in a rotation that has been missing the injured Stephen Strasburg. Young pitchers Josiah Gray, 24, Cade Ca-

valli, 24, and MacKenzie Gore, 23, are considered building blocks for the future, but the only other starter considered likely to be back on the team is Patrick Corbin, who was a key part of the 2019 World Series championship but was 6-19 with a 6.31 ERA last season. The Nationals finished last in their division at 55-107 in 2022 — the worst record in baseball — and are in the process of rebuilding their roster a few years after winning the franchise's first title. Their offseason has been relatively quiet so far compared to the splashy spending of NL East rivals such as the Mets and the Philadelphia Phillies.

The agreement with Williams comes about 1 1/2 weeks after Washington signed free-agent infielder

Jeimer Candelario for one year and agreed to a major league deal with outfielder Stone Garrett. □



**New York Mets starting pitcher Trevor Williams in action during the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Philadelphia Phillies, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, in Philadelphia.**

Associated Press



# Weekly SPECIALS

**\$2.28**  
Per KG



Limes (Green)

**WAS \$9.70**  
**\$5.71**  
Per KG



German Sausage

**WAS \$7.97**  
**\$6.83**  
Each



Beyond Meat Beef Free Burger  
8oz

**WAS \$10.28**  
**\$9.14**  
Each



Yellow Tail Assorted Wines 750ml

**WAS \$2.28**  
**\$1.71**  
Per KG



Cabbage Green USA

**WAS \$2.28**  
**\$1.71**  
Each



Pomegranates

**WAS \$30.23**  
**\$27.99**  
Per KG



Lamb Shoarma

**WAS \$7.94**  
**\$5.71**  
Per KG



Pork Spareribs

**WAS \$6.28**  
**\$5.42**  
Each



Bouducco Panettone 400gr

**WAS \$7.99**  
**\$6.28**  
Each



Kellogg's Rice Krispies Cereal  
12oz

**WAS \$2.28**  
**\$1.42**  
Each



WH Organic Garbanzo Beans  
can 15oz

**WAS \$1.99**  
**\$1.71**  
Each



Spar Flour Tortilla Wraps  
370gr

**WAS \$3.19**  
**\$2.28**  
Each



Pillsbury Funfetti Cake Mix  
15.25oz

**WAS \$6.85**  
**\$5.99**  
Each



Downy Liquid Fabric Softener  
Ocean Breeze 2800ml

**WAS \$7.42**  
**\$6.85**  
Each



Aidells Assorted Sausage 12oz

**WAS \$3.71**  
**\$3.14**  
Each



Moro Goulashkraket 324gr

**WAS \$7.54**  
**\$6.28**  
Each



Colgate Toothpaste Optic White Charcoal 4.2oz

**WAS \$2.62**  
**\$2.05**  
Each



Limited Too Metal Head Band

**WAS \$1.48**  
**\$1.14**  
100 GR



Cooked Ham 35%

**WAS \$1.54**  
**\$1.25**  
100 GR



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